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A preliminary program is in preparation and will be mailed to all out-of-town Fellows upon request. The final program will be distributed a week before the meeting and will also be printed in full, with a brief synopsis of each paper, in the July number of the *Geographical Review*. This brief preliminary announcement is made in order that anyone interested may have the opportunity of attending the meeting.

## Obituary

Julius von Hann. It is nearly half a century ago that Julius von Hann began to take his place as the universally acknowledged leader of meteorological science, and for many years previous to his death he stood out head and shoulders above his fellow workers. He grew up with and himself was, as it were, a large part of the rapid modern development of meteorological science. He was able, through his intense application and industry, and because of his great intellectual powers, not only himself to contribute largely to the advance of his science but also to keep closely in touch with all the work which was being done by investigators and writers everywhere. For years his many contributions to the *Meteorologische Zeitschrift*, often modestly signed J. H., were never-failing evidence of his truly extraordinary grasp of his subject and of the universal range of his reading. He was, as fully as any one human being can be, a living encyclopedia of his chosen science. And this is in no sense to be taken as suggesting that his mind was merely a storehouse of dry, hard facts. He was very human. He saw the many and varied relations of meteorology and climatology to human life and activities, and he was always on the lookout for opportunity to emphasize these relations. His writings were always clear, vivid, and interesting. His "Handbuch der Klimatologie," for example, which inevitably has to deal largely with "dry" statistical details, is enlivened throughout by carefully selected, vivid, first-hand descriptions of weather types and of human or botanical responses to the climatic environment.

His fellow workers who remain are dynamic or physical meteorologists, or climatologists, or are specializing in this or that subdivision of their science. This is a natural and inevitable situation at the present stage of our knowledge of the atmosphere. It cannot well be otherwise. But it leaves a great gap which no one man can ever again fill, because meteorology has now grown to such an extent that specialization is the rule, and no single mind will ever again master all of its details. Hann's "Lehrbuch der Meteorologie" is the one absolutely indispensable textbook in that science. Upon his "Handbuch der Klimatologie" all studies of climatology must, for years to come, be based. This extraordinary grasp of the whole wide range of his science he maintained practically till the day of his death.

Somehow, when a man like this passes away, a bare statement of the essential facts of his life and a list of his contributions to science seems unnecessary and futile. Yet there is something singularly significant in the fact that this man, living a very simple life, with very few changes of residence, extended his interests and his reading to all parts of the world. He knew the geographical and climatological conditions of almost every corner of the globe as intimately as if he had himself lived there. Hann—for thus, and not as von Hann, he will oftenest be recalled—began life as a school-teacher. At the age of twenty-nine he entered the Central-Anstalt für Meteorologie in Vienna. From 1874 to 1897 he was its Director, an office from which he retired at the age of fifty-eight. For many years he was also Professor of Cosmical Physics at the University of Vienna. His work for meteorology did not cease when he ceased to be Director. He soon went to Graz, where, in the Physikalisches Institut, he wrote his "Lehrbuch der Meteorologie," whose three editions bear the dates 1901, 1906, 1915. The "Handbuch der Klimatologie" he wrote while in Vienna. The three editions of this book bear the dates 1883, 1897, 1908–1911. These two books are Hann's monumental publications. It is almost literally true that no student of meteorological science can do a day's work without referring to them. Throughout his long editorship and joint editorship of the *Meteorologische Zeitschrift* (1866–1920) he steadily contributed to the pages of that journal a series of articles and notes which are invaluable, for in these he revised, summarized, commented upon, and put into permanent form a vast body of meteorological and climatological material.

Hann died in Vienna, October 1, 1921, in his eighty-third year. No more fitting tribute could possibly be written of him than that contained in the notice of his death sent out by his former colleagues in Vienna. "Ein Leben ununterbrochener Geistesarbeit und reinster Forschung im Dienste der Wissenschaft ist abgeschlossen. Aber ungezählte Fäder führen von Hann's Werken in alle Länder der Erde und wirken in seinem Sinne fort."

R. DeC. Ward